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BOROUGH OF



RYDE, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

for 1956

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Public Health Inspector

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1956
(as constituted at 24th May, 1956)

The Mayor—Councillor H. Rogers

Councillor Ramage (<i>Chairman</i>)	Councillor Cleaver
Councillor Castle (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	Councillor Lower
Alderman Evans	Councillor Matthews
Alderman Russell	Councillor Read
Councillor Baxter	Councillor Sutton
Councillor Bourn	Councillor White

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1956

Medical Officer of Health D. WARREN-BROWNE,†*
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H. (Resigned 31.3.56)

P. MAXWELL BROWNE,†*
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.) (Appointed 1.4.56)

35% Borough of Ryde, Sandown-Shanklin and Ventnor
U.D.C.'s. (Combined population 39,360).

65% Assistant County Medical Officer and Assistant
School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer for Isle of Wight Hospital Group Venereal
Diseases Services, including H.M. Prisons.

Senior Public Health Inspector S. DUMORE,†
M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector L. N. JORDAN,†
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk MISS D. G. BOYCE

* *Part time Officer*

† *Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants*



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
5, LIND STREET,
RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council*

GENTLEMAN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the year 1956, in accordance with the directions of the Minister of Health. As you will be aware, the Medical Officer of Health for the first quarter was Dr. D. W. Browne.

Vital Statistics

The Registrar General's figure for the population of Ryde rose from 19,930 to 20,030, while the number of live legitimate and illegitimate births was 238 and 22 respectively, compared with 265 and 16 for the preceding year. This resulted in a fall from 14.1 to 13 in the live birth rate per thousand of the estimated resident population. The comparative birth rate of 14.2 can be compared with the live birth rate for England and Wales of 15.7. I am pleased to be able to report that there was a reduction in the number of still births from 7 to 2, making the still birth rate per thousand live and still births 7.6.

The death rate remained much the same at 14.2, as compared with 14.7 the year before. The comparative death rate for Ryde was 10.8, and the death rate for England and Wales 11.7. There were no deaths from puerperal causes, and there was a substantial reduction in the death rate of infants under one year of age per thousand live births—from 35.6 to 7.7. This was because only two died, as against 10 the previous year. For this we can thank the continued vigilance and advice of general practitioners, health visitors and district nurses, and the popularity of the infant welfare clinics.

There was a fall in deaths from cancer, at all ages, from 52 to 47.

The causes of death once more continued to fall under two main headings:—malignant diseases, particularly that involving the stomach and lung in the male and the breast in the female; and diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels. This was especially marked last year in women, and, in fact, there was a sharper increase in deaths from coronary disease—from 11 to 29—than in men, where only two additional deaths were reported. This could be taken to indicate, perhaps, that the life of the housewife and mother is becoming increas-

ingly more difficult with the rising cost of living, although no conclusions really can be drawn from local figures, which are small and tend to fluctuate widely from year to year.

Once more it is gratifying to note that no deaths occurred from pregnancy, child-birth or abortion, which is a tribute to the ante-natal and maternity services.

A small outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred late in 1956, and three cases of the paralytic disease were notified, of which two were admitted to hospital. Six cases were non-paralytic and all were admitted to hospital. None of these people died. During this episode, investigations were carried out by the Public Health Department, for the first time to isolate the causative virus. These were also extended to immediate contacts and those suspected to be suffering from incipient and abortive forms of the disease. Many positive results were obtained, and sampling was continued in some cases, especially school children, until the specimens were shown to be free from virus. It is difficult to form any conclusion as to the value of these procedures, for, while it is of interest to know persons suffering from the disease are excreting the virus, this continued in some cases long after the disease had burned itself out, and in many cases for several months in perfectly healthy and presumably immune individuals. Symptomless excretors, as the latter are called, are probably widely distributed throughout the population during an outbreak. In addition the frequency of mild symptoms which could indicate abortive attacks show that the virus is probably widespread and can indeed be frequently isolated from sewage. To isolate those people found to be carrying the virus is in many ways analogous to "shutting the stable door after the horse has gone," for the damage has already been done, and those carriers found by sampling probably only represent a fraction of those actually existing in the population at risk. Only investigation on a vast and impracticable scale would find the others, and, even if this could be done, there is no known medical measure which could eradicate the virus in these people once it had been detected.

In view of these facts, children of school age should normally be allowed to return to school after convalescence, even if they are still excreting virus, providing of course, the conditions in the school are satisfactory from the hygiene point of view and vigorous application of personal hygiene is practiced by these children.

There were 6 cases of respiratory tuberculosis notified, all of which were admitted to hospital, and one of which died. Tuberculosis is still, therefore, a killing disease, and almost



as many cases occurred last year as poliomyelitis. Measures, therefore, for prevention of this disease should be still vigorously applied, and we should not sink into a complacent state about tuberculosis. There are, for example, problem families, with large numbers of children, who should be re-housed, and such conditions will always render a small proportion of the population more susceptible to tuberculosis and other diseases. It is significant that many of the cases of polio occurred in dirty, overcrowded houses.

Small outbreaks of dysentery resulted in 5 cases being notified, none of which was ill enough to be admitted to hospital. On the whole the year was fairly free from all outbreaks of this nature.

Only 21 cases of measles were notified, compared with 143 in the preceding year, and only 3 cases of scarlet fever and 11 cases of whooping cough, against 23 and 64 respectively in 1955.

The problem of the aged should still be foremost in our minds, for in 1956, as in preceding years, much difficulty was experienced with old folk who were in need of care and attention. Many of them lived alone and were suffering from various disabling diseases, and it was difficult not only to persuade them to receive medical attention and to go into homes for the aged or hospital, but also to find somewhere for them to go if they did agree, as the accommodation for the aged chronic sick and old people generally is very limited. General practitioners and medical officers of health frequently find themselves in a dilemma when they are confronted with mildly sick aged patients with, for example, varicose ulcers or chronic heart failure. They are not well enough to enter old people's homes and yet not ill enough to justify hospitalization. There is room in the Welfare State for a half-way house such as could be provided by converting one of the large houses to be found in every town into small flatlets, with one allocated to a warden, who could be someone with nursing experience and able to administer the nursing requirements of elderly tenants.

I wish to thank Mr. Dunmore, Mr. Jordan and Miss Boyce for their industry and help during the past year, and the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their loyal support and co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be, Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

P. MAXWELL BROWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	7,876
No. of inhabited houses according to rate books (as at 31/3/57)	...	...	...	...	...	6,397
Rateable value (as at 31/3/57)	...	...	...	...	...	£291,011
Sum represented by 1d. rate (as at 31/3/57)	...	...	...	...	...	£1,257
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	...	27·28 inches
Sunshine	...	...	...	...	...	1682·6 hours

(2) VITAL

Population (Registrar's Figure)	...	...	...	20,030
BIRTHS	M.	F.		
No. of live legitimate births	111	127	...	238
No. of live illegitimate births	9	13	...	22
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	...	13·0
Comparative factor (births)	...	...	...	1·09
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...	14·2
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	...	...	...	15·7
	M.	F.		
No. of legitimate stillbirths	1	1	...	2
No. of illegitimate stillbirths	—	—	...	—
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births				7·6
DEATHS	M.	F.		
Total number of deaths	125	159	...	284
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	14·2
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	...	...	0·76
Comparative death rate	...	...	...	10·8
Death rate England and Wales	...	...	...	11·7
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)	...	...	...	Nil
No. of deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year of age	M.	F.		
	1	1	...	2
No. of deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year of age	—	—	...	—
Death rate all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	7·7
Death rate legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	8·4
Death rate illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	47

CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSE	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2 (—)	— (—)
Tuberculosis, other	— (—)	— (1)
Syphilitic disease	— (1)	— (—)
Diphtheria	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough	— (—)	— (—)
Meningococcal infections	— (—)	— (—)
Acute Poliomyelitis	— (—)	— (—)
Measles	— (—)	— (—)
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— (—)	2 (—)
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	7 (2)	2 (6)
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4 (8)	1 (1)
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	— (—)	4 (6)
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	— (—)	1 (1)
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	13 (13)	15 (12)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	— (—)	— (3)
Diabetes	— (—)	1 (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11 (17)	27 (21)
Coronary disease, angina	22 (20)	29 (11)
Hypertension with heart disease ...	5 (3)	10 (1)
Other heart disease	21 (29)	34 (41)
Other circulatory disease	7 (5)	5 (7)
Influenza	1 (2)	— (1)
Pneumonia	6 (9)	4 (5)
Bronchitis	2 (7)	5 (4)
Other diseases of respiratory system	3 (4)	4 (1)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	— (1)	2 (2)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1 (1)	— (1)
Nephritis and nephrosis	1 (3)	1 (—)
Hyperplasia of prostate	— (1)	— (—)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	— (—)	— (—)
Congenital malformations	1 (3)	— (1)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11 (15)	8 (12)
Motor vehicle accidents	1 (1)	1 (—)
All other accidents	5 (2)	2 (4)
Suicide	1 (2)	1 (1)
Homicide and operations of war	— (—)	— (—)
ALL CAUSES	125 (149)	150 (144)

N.B.—Figures for 1955 are entered in brackets.

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (In- fective)	—	—	—
Measles	21	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	11	—	—
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Dysentery	5	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	3	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ...	6	6	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	6	6	1
Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Other)	2	2	—
Totals ...	58	17	1

Age at Date of Notification

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Malaria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (Meninges & C.N.S.)	Tuberculosis (Other)
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
10	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	—	—	—	—	1	11	21	—	—	5	—	—	3	6	6	—	2

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	None
(b)	Number of single cases	...	...	...	None
(c)	Number of deaths	...	...	...	None

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases Return from Head Teachers of Schools

Mumps	...	...	...	...	305
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	87
German Measles	...	...	...	...	8
Influenza and Influenzal Colds					19
					<hr/> 419 <hr/>

Tuberculosis, 1956

AGE PERIODS		Totals	New Cases				Totals	Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	„ „ 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	„ „ 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	„ „ 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	„ „ 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	„ „ 25	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	„ „ 35	7	1	5	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
35	„ „ 45	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	„ „ 55	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	„ „ 65	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65	„ „ 75	2	1	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
75 and over		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...†	20	6	12	—	2	*3	2	1	—	—

†Included in this total are ten transfers from the mainland, and two old cases who returned to the Island.

*One of these cases died from another cause.

Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Acts, 1944

Number of samples taken during 1956	...	...	114
Number of samples found to be T.B. positive	...	...	Nil
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	14

Factories Act, 1937.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1955, for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

Part I of the Act

1.—**Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	107	41	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	122	42	1	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ...	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	1	—

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my seventh Annual Report as your Senior Public Health Inspector, and it is, as in previous years, set out under four sections, *i.e.* Sanitary Circumstances, Housing, Food, and Miscellaneous.

My report, as part of the Medical Officer of Health's report, is set out separately by courtesy of Dr. P. Maxwell Browne.

The year under review has followed a quiet and routine course, enabling a full quota of inspections and visits for matters which are part of a health department's everyday work.

There is little to be said which has not already appeared in my previous reports, concerning the general sanitary circumstances of the Borough, and my comments therefore will be very brief except where something new has arisen or where a fresh slant on an old theme is necessary.

I suppose it is true to say that a year rarely passes but that the Government adds some major piece of legislation, together with regulations and orders, to the Statute Book, which further adds to the long list of duties the public health inspector is committed to perform. With the necessity to keep abreast of all the literature which pours into the Department, plus a great deal of clerical work if accurate records are to be kept, I feel that the time spent on actual inspections is not as great as I would like. However, the slum clearance programme has got under way, and the appearance of the new Food Hygiene Regulations has necessitated additional work to an industry which has always received particular attention in this seaside resort, and no other duty specifically required to be carried out has been neglected.

At last, too, the Government has seen fit to bring our designation into line with present-day thinking by changing it from "sanitary inspector" to "public health inspector", and giving us a title in keeping with the duties we now perform.

In conclusion, I would again thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their confidence, the Medical Officer of Health and the Heads of Departments and their staffs for their help and close co-operation, and, of course, my particular thanks go to Mr. Jordan and Miss Boyce for so ably helping to carry out another year's work.

I have the honour to be, Gentleman,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY DUNMORE,

Senior Public Health Inspector

Section 1—Sanitary Circumstances

Complaints

350 (378) complaints were received and dealt with during the year.

Water Supply

A very satisfactory and adequate supply has been maintained throughout the year, the bulk of the demand being met by the Knighton Water Works and the nearby small Ashey Works. The previous year's arrangement with the Water Board has continued as regards bacteriological sampling, and I have taken 130 (103) samples, comprising 36 from Knighton Water Works, 26 from Ashey Water Works and 68 from the mains (usually domestic taps) covering all parts of the Borough. The samples taken at the sources were taken prior to any chlorination treatment, and there only one Knighton sample was suspicious, whilst at Ashey one was suspicious and five unsatisfactory. The slight pollution was only of a very temporary nature, and check samples proved satisfactory. Of the 68 mains samples, only 3 were not satisfactory, and the causes were quickly rectified.

Drainage

A new disposal works has been constructed at St. Helens and will be in operation shortly. The Borough is anxious to improve the present sewage disposal arrangements generally and refuse tipping, and consequently are actively exploring the possibility of composting refuse and sewage sludge.

Public Cleansing

This service is operated under the direction of the Borough Surveyor. The quantity of refuse collected was 11,325 tons, and this was all dumped at the Nettlestone tip, where it has been extremely difficult to carry out effective and proper disposal because of a serious lack of facilities for obtaining covering material, especially when most necessary, *i.e.* during the summer season, when the amount of refuse was greatest. Serious rat and fly infestations have had to be dealt with and the latter kept under control by regular and large-scale treatment with tip dressing insecticide.

Caravans and Camping

15 (6) caravans were licensed for seasonal use, and for the first time there were none licensed for residential purposes. Of the 15 already mentioned, 14 are on camping sites and one is in private grounds.

6 caravan and camping sites (unchanged) were again licensed, and were satisfactorily operated. All are provided with essential equipment such as drainage, water supply, adequate sanitary accommodation and washing facilities, and some are now providing additional amenities such as shower-baths, electric light, etc.

The two permanent holiday camps have again proved their popularity by being fully booked throughout the season.

Very unsummerlike weather during the period when most camping under canvas usually takes place discouraged all but the most hardy, and only limited supervision was required.

Close liaison on all matters concerning caravans and camping has been maintained with the County Planning Office.

Swimming Pools

The two open-air swimming pools situated in the grounds of the two holiday camps at Puckpool were operated in the same efficient way as in previous years, and were available for use by local school children and several other organisations.

Six samples were taken from the pools and submitted for bacteriological examination, and found to be very satisfactory.

Vermin

(a) 35 (49) premises were treated to destroy vermin. There was one case of bug infestation, and the remaining

treatments were carried out in respect of flies, fleas, cockroaches, ants, etc.

(b) 118 complaints of rats and mice infestation were received by the Department during the 12 months ended 31st March, 1957, and these were passed to and dealt with by the County Rodent Officer, who operates under the control of the I.W. (Rodent Destruction) Joint Committee, comprising representatives and public health inspectors of each constituent local authority. Visits were made to 24 Council properties, 934 dwellinghouses, 44 agricultural premises and 466 business and industrial premises, which resulted in the discovery of 2 major and 107 minor rat infestations. 125 premises with mice infestations were also dealt with. "Block" control of the Council's sewers was carried out by systematic inspection.

Shops Act, 1950

The number of shops on the register was 439 (436), comprising a great variety of shops, many of which are small or household businesses. 176 (192) inspections appertaining to the Act were made.

Factories Act, 1937

There were 122 premises on the factories register, made up of 107 power factories and 15 non-power factories. This figure remains almost constant, and the premises are mostly small businesses employing a few hands. 42 inspections were carried out, during which 2 contraventions were found, which were corrected by the end of the year.

Summary of Inspections and Visits

Complaints	139
Public Health Act	153
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	105
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	439
Work in Progress	235
Insanitary Houses and Rooms	19
Verminous Premises or Rooms	67
National Assistance Act	11
Infectious Diseases	35
Drainage Inspections and Tests	460
Septic Tanks, Cesspools, etc.	16

Camping Sites, Caravans, Tents and Houseboats	59
Stables, Piggeries, Poultry, etc.	16
Factories, with Power	41
Factories, without Power	1
Places of Entertainment	5
Shops Act	176
Schools	3
Foreshores, Streams, etc.	21
Vacant Land and Dumps	17
Common Yards and Passages	1
Swimming Pools	7
Smoke Nuisances	2
Rodent Infestations	7
Dangerous Structures	21
Miscellaneous Visits	135

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	71
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	71
Drains Connected to Sewers	1
Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired ...	29
Disposal Plants Installed or Repaired	1
Septic Tanks, etc., Cleansed or Repaired ...	2
W.C's Cleansed	4
Offensive, etc., Accumulations Removed ...	15
Dirty Premises Cleansed	3
Cellars Cleared after Flooding	5
Contraventions Remedied in Factories, etc. ...	2
Contraventions Remedied in Shops	2
Contraventions Remedied in Stables and Piggeries	2
Contravention of Byelaws re Offensive Matter in Streets Remedied	1
Dangerous Structures Made Safe	11

Section II—Housing

During the year the Housing Manager drastically revised his list of applicants for Council houses, as a result of which it was reduced to 190 (272) at the end of the year. There is a separate list for old people's flatlets, comprising 49 applications.

A very satisfactory building rate of new Council houses was maintained, and 52 were constructed. Most of these were under construction at the beginning of the year, and subsequently all building came to an end when, as the result of government policy and economic conditions, the Council decided to suspend their building programme.

The Council have now constructed 387 post-war houses, and they own an overall total of 630, comprising the 387 already mentioned, plus 24 old people's flatlets and 219 pre-war houses.

In addition, 57 new private houses were erected and 11 existing properties were converted to provide 25 units.

In May the Minister of Housing approved the Council's proposed five-year plan for dealing with the 34 houses recommended for action under Section I of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and subsequently Demolition Orders were made in respect of 4 houses, and an Undertaking not to re-let for human habitation was accepted in respect of one house. As it was necessary to re-house two families from these properties, the Council decided to construct a pair of houses by direct labour, and these are now under construction.

Two Undertakings operative in respect of an unfit house and a flat were cancelled during the year, upon these properties being rendered fit again for human habitation.

Because of the instability of interest rates on loans to local authorities, the Council decided at the commencement of the year to suspend Improvement Grants available under the Housing Act, 1949, and this suspension remained operative throughout the year.

Generally speaking, owners and agents of rented properties complied with the Informal Notices it was necessary to serve upon them, and in only five cases was the Public Health Committee requested to serve Formal Notices.

During the year three applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received; one Certificate was issued, one rejected, and one not issued until 1957. One Certificate issued in 1955 was revoked.

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	143
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	400

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	77
Public Health Act	89
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	205
Housing Acts and Rent Acts	54
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Housing Acts	52
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc. ...	173
Water Samples	131
Overcrowding	3
Miscellaneous	14

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied

Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	13
Ceilings Repaired, Renewed or Provided ...	58
Dampness Abated	52
Doors Repaired or Renewed	28
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	39
Eaves Gutters Repaired or Renewed	10
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	8
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	8
Floors Repaired or Renewed	23
Handrails Fixed in Staircases	1
Sashcords Provided or Renewed	6
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	5
Ventilation Provided	3
Walls (External) Re-pointed or Repaired ...	21
Walls (Internal) Repaired	36
Windows Repaired or Renewed	35
Water Service Pipes Repaired	8
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	3
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired ...	2
New Bathrooms Provided	4
New W.C's Provided	12
W.C. Compartments Repaired	13
W.C. Pedestals Provided	28
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	8
New Dustbins Provided	12

Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food

At the end of the year there were approximately 300 food premises (excluding licensed premises) operating in the Borough.

Clean Food

The good hygiene standards reached in the past by the food traders has been maintained, and this has been in evidence where most particularly desired, namely the restaurants and cafes of the Borough, where it has been evident that the problem of obtaining suitable and reliable seasonal employees is greater than ever. This is particularly necessary in Ryde itself, where so many thousands of visitors and trippers feed during the holiday season. Also, the local manufacturers have shown commendable care in producing good quality food, with the result that no complaints were lodged at the Department, and no cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Upon the introduction this year of the Food Hygiene Regulations, the occupiers of all such premises affected were supplied with self-explanatory pamphlets, and advice was given. It can be said that shopkeepers and others concerned have complied very satisfactorily so far, and no serious objectors are envisaged.

Meat Inspection

There are no slaughterhouses within the Borough, all animals being slaughtered and inspected elsewhere prior to delivery and sale. The quality of home-killed meat from the Island or nearby mainland slaughterhouses has been excellent: routine inspections have been made and condemnations confined entirely to imported meat.

The following quantities of meat were condemned as unfit:—

Meat (Imported)	...	...	...	3 cwt.	10 lbs.
Poultry	...	...	...		7 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...		5 stones
Decomposed Meat	...	...	...		40 lbs.

Food Analysis

The undermentioned list of foods were taken within the Borough by officials of the Food and Drugs Authority (I.W. County Council) and submitted by them for examination and analysis:—

Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cream of Tomato Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cooking Fat	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cream of Green Pea Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dough Cake	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Glucose Drinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Instant Postum	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Minced Chicken	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meat Paste	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Orange Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Orange Squash	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Processed Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pure Lemon Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pure Almond Marzipan	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Minced Turkey	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Saccharin Tablets...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sausalatas (Meatless Sausages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Self-raising Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Table Jelly	1
Tomato Ketchup	1
Wholemeat Buttermilk Biscuits	1
Yeast Tablets	1

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56
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Unsatisfactory Samples

Instant Postum	1	} Incorrectly labelled
Minced Chicken	1	
Minced Turkey	1	
Sausalatas	1	

Condemned Foods

The quantity of tinned and packed foods voluntarily surrendered, condemned, and subsequently destroyed at the Council's refuse tip were as follows:—

Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	32 lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	24 lb.
Frozen Whole Egg	...	...	...	...	56 lb.
Dessicated Coconut	...	...	...	...	10 lb.
Meat, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, etc.	758 (718) tins, jars and bottles.				

Milk Supplies

The number of distributors registered is 14, which is two more than last year.

Except for a very small quantity, all milk consumed in the Borough is either "tuberculin tested" or "pasteurised", and probably within a year it will be totally so.

The one small "Holder" pasteurising plant operated by a local dairyman has continued to be satisfactory and has been inspected from time to time on behalf of the licensing Authority (I.W. County Council).

The following registrations and licences were operative during the year:—

Registration as Distributor of Milk	...	...	14
Registration of Premises used as a Dairy	...	...	9
Dealer's License authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	13
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	11
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	...	...	1

Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16

The premises registered under the above Act and Section are:—

Registered for the Manufacture of Sausages and/or Preserved Foods	...	...	...	...	27
Registered for the Manufacture, Storage/Sale of Ice-Cream	...	...	...	...	133

160

Ice-Cream

The continued popularity of this commodity is shown by the fact that 130 (126) premises were on the register for storage and sale, and the same three registered premises continued to manufacture.

During the year 15 informal samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and resulted as follows:—

<i>Grades</i>	<i>I</i>	<i>II</i>	<i>III</i>	<i>IV</i>
	8	3	4	—

Six samples of iced lollies were also taken and examined, and these proved satisfactory.

Bakehouses

15 (16) bakehouses were in operation, none of which is underground.

The largest bakery for bread and confectionery in the Island is situated in the Borough, and this is fully mechanised with modern equipment, and the minimum of handling takes place. The other premises are much smaller businesses and mainly operated in connection with shop premises.

Licensed Premises

The 64 licensed premises have all received routine inspections during the year, and the co-operation of the owners and the licensees connected with the trade has now produced a high standard both in appearance, equipment and hygiene, which has not been easy in some of the old and badly designed premises.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	187
Re-Visits to Premises under Notice—Food & Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...
Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Ice-Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	83

Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Licensed Premises	...	..	...	...	...	...	63
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Food Enforcement	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

Number of Food Premises in which Contraventions Remedied

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grocers and Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II and III)

Public Health Act (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	110
Public Health Act (Formal)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Housing Act (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	1
Housing Act (Formal)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Factories Act (Mechanical Power)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	8
Food & Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	43

Section IV—Miscellaneous

In addition to the normal duties of a public health inspector, the following are also administered:—

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928

During the licensing year 1956-57, commencing 1st May, 37 premises were licensed for the storage of petroleum spirit, and the total amount for which these licenses were issued was 33,000 gallons. In addition, 3 petroleum mixtures licences were issued, and the total brought in £25 15s. 0d. in fees for the local authority. 96 visits were made to the garages and petroleum stores for the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with.

Liaison has been made with the Petroleum Officers of the other local authorities in the Island, with a view to ensuring uniformity of requirements as regards construction, fire precautions, etc.

Shops Act—Closing Hours

The Department is responsible for the compliance with “hours of closing” by shops within the Borough, as required by the Shops Act and several operative Closing Orders made by the Council.

Hackney Carriages and Drivers

The local byelaws governing hackney carriages licensed to ply for hire on the Council's stands are administered by the Health Department, and this necessitated 97 inspections of the 41 (50) licensed vehicles.

The drivers (43) of these vehicles are also licensed by the Council and subject to similar surveillance.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Three premises have been licensed as pet shops, and these have been operated in accordance with their conditions of licence.

Lectures, etc.

Mr. Jordan has again assisted the Hospital Authorities in the training of nurses for their S.R.N. examinations by giving the lectures and demonstrations on public health work which is part of their curriculum.



